

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Republican Leader McCarthy,

As you negotiate further legislation to address the COVID-19 pandemic, we strongly urge you to include additional economic assistance to State Veterans Homes across the nation.

State Veterans Homes provide nursing home, domiciliary and adult day care for our nation's veterans. Currently, there are 156 State Veterans Homes in the United States, with at least one in each state. The veterans who receive care in State Veterans Homes have risked their lives to protect our great nation and it is imperative that State Veterans Homes continue to provide the best possible care for their residents.

We commend you for your support of State Veterans Homes in the CARES Act, which included \$150 million for the State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program. That money is set to fund new life-saving COVID-19 prevention, response, and mitigation infrastructure projects. However, existing regulations for the application process for the State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program has made it difficult for State Veterans Homes to access the funds from these grants. Therefore, we respectfully and strongly request you include the following provisions in any additional COVID-19 relief funding legislation as it relates to the use of the \$150 million previously allocated for the State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program in the CARES Act.

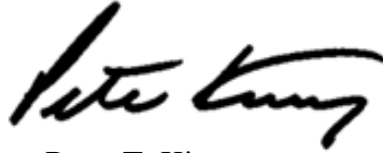
1. Extend and expand normal grant filing deadlines to allow a rolling application process;
2. Allow grants to cover COVID-19 prevention and mitigation costs already expended by State Veterans Homes prior to making their application; and
3. Allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to defer or waive the state matching grant requirements normally required to award a State Home Construction Grant.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued support of our nation's veterans. Should you have any further questions, please contact Congressman Zeldin's legislative aide, Mary Hrinkevich, at Mary.Hrinkevich@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Mark Takano, Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee
The Honorable Phil Roe, Ranking Member, House Veterans Affairs Committee